

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for remotely monitoring and/or controlling a home device performed on a web-based host, the method comprising:

5 establishing a connection with a remote device;

receiving monitoring and/or control information from the remote device;

establishing a connection with a home; and

communicating the monitoring and/or control information to the home,

wherein the monitoring and/or control information causes monitoring

10 information to be obtained from a home device in the home and/or causes the a home device in the home to be controlled.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

receiving authentication information from the remote device; and

15 determining at the web-based host whether a user of the remote device has permission to access the home.

3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

communicating graphical interface files to the remote device, the

20 graphical interface files for allowing a user of the remote device to select a home device to monitor and/or control and for allowing the user of the remote device to specify how to monitor and/or control the home device.

4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

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encrypting the monitoring and/or control information before the monitoring and/or control information is communicated to the home.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

5 receiving home device status information in response to the step of communicating the monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host to the home; and communicating the home device status information to the remote device.

10 6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

establishing a connection with the home if a home device in the home has detected an event; receiving information which describes the event; and communicating the information which describes the event to a user.

15 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the remote device is a wireless telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless computer.

20 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the remote device is a wired telephone, a wired personal digital assistant, or a wired computer.

9. A computer system for remotely monitoring and/or controlling a home device, the computer system comprising:

25 one or more computers connected to one or more remote devices via a network;

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one or more computer programs executable by the computers, wherein the computer programs comprise computer instructions for:

5 establishing a connection with a remote device;
 receiving monitoring and/or control information from the remote device;
 establishing a connection with a home; and
 communicating the monitoring and/or control information to the home,
wherein the monitoring and/or control information causes monitoring
information to be obtained from a home device in the home and/or causes the a
home device in the home to be controlled.

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10. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further
comprise computer instructions for:

 receiving authentication information from the remote device; and
 determining at the web-based host whether a user of the remote device
15 has permission to access the home.

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11. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further
comprise computer instructions for:

 communicating graphical interface files to the remote device, the
graphical interface files for allowing a user of the remote device to select a
home device to monitor and/or control and for allowing the user of the remote
device to specify how to monitor and/or control the home device.

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25 12. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further
comprise computer instructions for:

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encrypting the monitoring and/or control information before the monitoring and/or control information is communicated to the home.

13. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further
5 comprise computer instructions for:

receiving home device status information in response to the step of communicating the monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host to the home; and

communicating the home device status information to the remote device.

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14. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with the home if a home device in the home has detected an event;

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receiving information which describes the event; and

communicating the information which describes the event to a user.

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15. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the remote device is a wireless telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless computer.

16. The computer system of Claim 9 wherein the remote device is a wired telephone, a wired personal digital assistant, or a wired computer.

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17. A computer readable storage medium storing one or more computer programs executable by one or more computers, one or more of the computer programs comprising computer instructions for:

establishing a connection with a remote device;

5 receiving monitoring and/or control information from the remote device;

establishing a connection with a home; and

communicating the monitoring and/or control information to the home,

wherein the monitoring and/or control information causes monitoring

information to be obtained from a home device in the home and/or causes the a

10 home device in the home to be controlled.

18. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

receiving authentication information from the remote device; and

15 determining at the web-based host whether a user of the remote device has permission to access the home.

19. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

20 communicating graphical interface files to the remote device, the

graphical interface files for allowing a user of the remote device to select a

home device to monitor and/or control and for allowing the user of the remote

device to specify how to monitor and/or control the home device.

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20. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

encrypting the monitoring and/or control information before the monitoring and/or control information is communicated to the home.

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21. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

receiving home device status information in response to the step of communicating the monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host to the home; and
10 communicating the home device status information to the remote device.

22. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

15 establishing a connection with the home if a home device in the home has detected an event;
receiving information which describes the event; and
communicating the information which describes the event to a user.

20 23. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the remote device is a wireless telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless computer.

24. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the remote
25 device is a wired telephone, a wired personal digital assistant, or a wired computer.

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25. A method for monitoring and/or controlling a home device performed on a home attendant, the method comprising:

establishing a connection with a web-based host; and

receiving monitoring and/or control information from the web-based

5 host.

26. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating the monitoring and/or control information to a home device thereby causing monitoring information to be obtained from the home device and/or causing the home device to be controlled.

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27. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating with a home device to determine whether the home device has detected an event; and

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if an event has been detected by the home device, establishing a secure connection with the web-based host and communicating the event to the web-based host.

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28. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating with a home device via a radio frequency connection.

29. The method of Claim 25 further comprising:

communicating with a home device via a powerline connection.

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30. The method of Claim 25 wherein the home device is a stand-alone device, a peripheral device, a personal computer, or a television set-top box.

5 31. An apparatus for monitoring and/or controlling a home device, the apparatus comprising:
a microprocessor;
a memory connected to the microprocessor; and
one or more computer programs executable by the microprocessor,
wherein the computer programs comprise computer instructions for:
10 establishing a connection with a web-based host; and
receiving monitoring and/or control information from the web-based host.

15 32. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:
communicating the monitoring and/or control information to a home device thereby causing monitoring information to be obtained from the home device and/or causing the home device to be controlled.

20 33. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:
communicating with a home device to determine whether the home device has detected an event; and
if an event has been detected by the home device, establishing a secure
connection with the web-based host and communicating the event to the web-
25 based host.

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34. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:
communicating with a home device via a radio frequency connection.

5 35. The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising:
communicating with a home device via a powerline connection.

36. The apparatus of Claim 31 wherein the home device is a stand-alone
device, a peripheral device, a personal computer, or a television set-top box.

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37. A computer readable storage medium storing one or more computer
programs executable by one or more computers, one or more of the computer programs
comprising computer instructions for:

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establishing a connection with a web-based host; and
receiving monitoring and/or control information from the web-based
host.

38. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the
computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

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communicating the monitoring and/or control information to a home
device thereby causing monitoring information to be obtained from the home
device and/or causing the home device to be controlled.

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39. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

communicating with a home device to determine whether the home device has detected an event; and

5 if an event has been detected by the home device, establishing a secure connection with the web-based host and communicating the event to the web-based host.

40. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

10 communicating with a home device via a radio frequency connection.

41. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the computer programs further comprise computer instructions for:

15 communicating with a home device via a powerline connection.

42. The computer readable storage medium of Claim 37 wherein the home device is a stand-alone device, a peripheral device, a personal computer, or a television set-top box.

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